**Condition of coaches in Venad and Parsuram Express**

1515. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coaches of the second class, first class and A/C chair car of the Venad and Parsuram Express are very old and are not periodically maintained;

(b) if so, the reasons for poor and improper maintenance; and

(c) how old the coaches of these trains are?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The coaches of the second class, first class and AC Chair car of the Venad and Parsuram Express are well within their useful economic life. They have undergone all prescribed schedule maintenance.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The age profile ot the coaches in these trains is as under:—

| Years | %age |
|---|---|
| Upto 10 years | 77% |
| 11-15 years group | 15% |
| Above 15 years | 8% |
| Total | 100% |

**Production and Export of rice and wheat during 1996**

1516. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat produced during the year 1996;

(b) the quantity of rice and wheat required for national consumption;

(c) the quantity of rice and wheat exported during the year, if any;

(d) whether there is a demand for Indian rice in the international markets; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to export more rice next year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The production of rice and wheat is estimated to be 79.46 million tonnes and 62.62 million tonnes respectively during 1995-96.

(b) The normative requirement for foodgrains works out to about 191 million tonnes for the year 1996. Grain-wise requirements are not being worked out to inter-commodity substitution arising from their price differentials.

(c) The total quantity and value of wheat and rice exported during 1996-97 (April-Sept., 1996) is as under:

| Commodity | Quantity (Tonnes) | Value (Rs. crores) |
|---|---|---|
| Rice (Basmati) | 249043 | 554.16 |
| Rice (Non-Basmati) | 1108766 | 1051.67 |
| Wheat | 1078653 | 668.99 |

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Exports of rice are freely permitted without any quantity and price restrictions.

**Import of Pyrazinamide**

1517. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pyrazinamide, an anti TB drug, is being imported on a large scale after the Budget this year and that its landed price vis-a-vis the landed price of intermediates imported for production of one kg. of Pyrazinamide, is not uniform;

(b) whether there is any discrimination in the levy of countervailing duty on intermediates and final product; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken for removal of this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) To the extend information is available, quantity of Pyrazinamide imported into the country has been very small as compared to the indigenous